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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/024,560	12/21/2001	Kenji Oki	0505-0926P	3721

2292 7590 04/01/2004

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EXAMINER

CIRJC, LJILJANA V

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3753

DATE MAILED: 04/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Art Unit: 3753

***Response to Amendment***

1. The reply filed on January 15, 2004 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s): (a) the amendments to the claims and to the drawings are not in strict compliance with the revised version of 37 CFR 1.121(c) effective July 30, 2003; and, (b) the claims as amended are still generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S. practice.

More particularly with regard to (a), for deletions of five characters or less, if the strikethrough cannot easily be perceived (i.e., for deletions of punctuation marks or numerals, for example), the deleted characters must not be merely struck through but must rather be enclosed in DOUBLE brackets. For example, the strikethrough appearing at the end of each of line 5 in claim 1 and of line 6 in claim 8 cannot be easily perceived and should be enclosed in double brackets instead of being struck through.

With regard to (b) above, the claims are still written in run-on fashion. The amendments to the claims have in fact added informalities and indefiniteness problems to the claims. If needed, the attorney is invited to telephone the examiner in order to discuss ways in which to obviate the informalities and indefiniteness problems in the claims.

A proper reply to the instant Office communication should be a replacement to the reply filed on January 15, 2004 including replacement amendments to the claims.

See 37 CFR 1.111. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid

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abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ljiljana (Lil) V. Ciric, whose telephone number is (703) 308-3925.

While she works a flexible schedule that varies from day to day and from week to week, Examiner Ciric may generally be reached at the Office during the work week between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. ET.

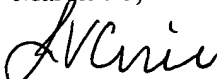
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dave Scherbel, can be reached on (703) 308-1272.

The NEW central official fax phone number is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.

lvc

March 31, 2004

  
LJILJANA V. CIRIC  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 3753